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Coordination, programme and other questions: mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh,* Belgium,* Brazil, Canada,* Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic,* Denmark,* Finland, France, Gambia,* Germany, Greece,* Grenada,* Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland,* Ireland,* Italy, Jamaica,* Japan, Kenya,* Liberia,* Liechtenstein,* Luxembourg,* Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway,* Portugal,* Republic of Korea, Romania, South Africa, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand,* Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America: draft resolution

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision to establish the regular sub-item "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system" in order to, inter alia, monitor and evaluate achievements made and obstacles encountered by the United Nations system, and to consider further measures to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system,

Also recalling its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and its subsequent decision to devote a coordination segment before 2005 to a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of those agreed conclusions,

Affirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality,

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

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Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2]

Underlining the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women in promoting gender mainstreaming,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[3] especially concerning the measures taken by the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies to mainstream a gender perspective into their work;

2. *Calls upon* Member States and all other actors of the United Nations system to continue to mainstream a gender perspective into all activities at all levels;

3. *Decides* to intensify its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of all activities in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, and therefore to give appropriate attention to gender perspectives and the particular obstacles that women face in all its segments and agenda items, both during discussions and in the drafting of outcomes;

4. *Expresses appreciation* to its subsidiary bodies for the progress made in giving attention to situations that are specific to women and to the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into their work, for example by:

(a) Identifying gender equality as an essential element for the realization of social, people-centred and sustainable development, and approaching gender as an issue that cuts across all areas of policy rather than only addressing women as a social group to be targeted;

(b) Stressing the need to include women in planning, decision-making and implementation processes at all levels;

(c) Emphasizing the link between human rights and gender equality by using specific agenda items to focus attention on gender equality issues and ensuring the general consideration of gender perspectives throughout their respective agendas;

(d) Recognizing that men and women are often affected differently by political, economic, social and environmental factors, and the consequent need to develop gender-sensitive policies that address the different experiences of men and women in response;

(e) Continuing to use and call for data disaggregated on the basis of sex and using indicators that provide separate analysis by sex;

5. *Calls upon* its subsidiary bodies to intensify their efforts to mainstream gender perspectives in their work;

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and 3.

[3] E/2002/66.

6. *Calls upon* its subsidiary bodies to continue their efforts to address gender perspectives in relation to the thematic issues of their multi-year programmes of work or in relation to annual themes;

7. *Calls upon* the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies to consider how best to facilitate specific gender discussions in their work;

8. *Encourages* its subsidiary bodies to increase their collaboration with the Commission on the Status of Women, and encourages the Commission to continue its efforts to highlight gender perspectives in the work of the Council and its other subsidiary bodies;

9. *Invites* its Bureau to consider, during meetings with the bureaux of its subsidiary bodies, progress made and obstacles encountered in gender mainstreaming, and encourages the President of the Council to consider, during meetings with the Chairs of its subsidiary bodies, enhanced coordination in the area of gender mainstreaming across the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

10. *Encourages* the collection, provision and use by the United Nations system and its subsidiary bodies of data disaggregated by sex and other gender-specific information, as one of the means by which obstacles to the integration of a gender perspective can be monitored and addressed;

11. *Encourages* the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women to expand their efforts to raise awareness across the United Nations system of gender issues;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, especially its efforts to ensure that gender perspectives are addressed systematically by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and in that regard encourages the Board in its efforts to mainstream gender perspectives throughout the United Nations system;

13. *Also notes with appreciation* the work of the regional commissions to promote gender mainstreaming and improve the situation of women by, inter alia, convening meetings of experts, issuing publications, developing indicators and deriving programmes specifically focused on women's issues, and encourages the regional commissions to intensify those efforts;

14. *Underlines* the importance of reports to intergovernmental bodies presenting issues and approaches in a gender-sensitive manner so as to give concrete and practical recommendations and serve as an analytical basis for those bodies to undertake gender-responsive policy formulation, in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1997/2;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its substantive session of 2003 a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including progress in the area of gender mainstreaming.